

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A cascade scrubber ~~(10)~~ for scrubbing exhaust gas, whereby the scrubber contains several cascade tubes ~~(12)~~ for scrubbing gas, an inlet channel ~~(9)~~ for conveying the gas to the scrubber, a discharge tube ~~(11)~~ for venting the gas from the scrubber and a liquid tank for scrubbing the gas, ~~characterized in that~~ characterized in that a gas scrubbing unit and a droplet separation unit are combined in the scrubber ~~(10)~~ into a compact apparatus, made up of several nested chambers ~~(20, 22, 24, 16)~~, and that the cascade tubes ~~(12)~~ are placed in an annular outer chamber ~~(20)~~ surrounding said tubes, where the separate gas flows coming from each cascade tube are recombined.

2. (Currently Amended) A cascade scrubber according to patent claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ characterized in that a integrated gas distribution chamber ~~(15)~~ is placed in the upper section of the scrubber, and is connected to cascade tubes ~~(12)~~ in order to distribute the gas from the chamber to the cascade tubes.

3. (Currently Amended) A cascade scrubber according to patent claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ characterized in that the gas distribution chamber ~~(15)~~ surrounds the gas discharge tube ~~(11)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) A cascade scrubber according to patent claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ characterized in that a bottom ~~(28)~~ of the gas distribution chamber ~~(15)~~ is inclined so that the cross-sectional area of the chamber reduces as the distance from the inlet channel ~~(9)~~ increases.

5. (Currently Amended) A cascade scrubber according to patent claim 5 1, ~~characterized in that~~ characterized in that the cross-sectional area of the upper section of the outer chamber ~~(20)~~ is smaller than that of the lower section.

6. (Currently Amended) A cascade scrubber according to patent claim 5 1, ~~characterized in that~~ characterized in that the outer chamber ~~(20)~~ is connected to another annular chamber ~~(22)~~ with the aid of at least partially tangentially positioned partitions ~~(23)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) A cascade scrubber according to patent claim 7 6, ~~characterized in that~~ characterized in that the

partitions ~~(23)~~ divide said annular chamber ~~(22)~~ into segments ~~(24)~~, the number of which is advantageously at most half the number of the cascade tubes ~~(12)~~.

8. (Currently Amended) A cascade scrubber according to ~~patent~~ claim 7 6, ~~characterized in that~~ characterized in that the annular chamber ~~(22)~~ containing the partitions ~~(23)~~ is positioned inside the outer chamber ~~(20)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) A cascade scrubber according to ~~patent~~ claim 7 6, ~~characterized in that~~ characterized in that the cross-sectional area of the upper section of the annular chamber ~~(22)~~ is greater than that of the lower section of the chamber.

10. (Currently Amended) A cascade scrubber according to ~~patent~~ claim 7 6, ~~characterized in that~~ characterized in that at least two more nested chambers ~~(25,16)~~ forming the droplet separation unit of the scrubber are positioned inside the chamber ~~(22)~~ containing tangential partitions ~~(23)~~.

11. (Currently Amended) A cascade scrubber according to ~~patent~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ characterized in that the innermost chamber ~~(16)~~ of the droplet separation unit is equipped at the liquid surface ~~(14)~~ with a swirl cone ~~(26)~~ narrowing towards the top.

12. (Currently Amended) A cascade scrubber according to ~~patent~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ characterized in that the innermost chamber ~~(16)~~ of the droplet separation unit is connected to the discharge tube ~~(11)~~ of pure, dry gas.

13. (Currently Amended) A cascade scrubber according to ~~patent~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ characterized in that the equipment functions in a reduced pressure.

14. (Currently Amended) A cascade scrubber according to ~~patent~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ characterized in that the scrubber is essentially cylindrical at the gas scrubbing unit and droplet separation unit and conical at the lower section.